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Validating the Unit Correctness of Spreadsheet Programs

Tudor Antoniu, Paul A. Steckler, Shriram Krishnamurthi, Erich Neuwirth, Matthias Felleisen May 2004 Proceedings of the 26th International Conference on Software **Engineering ICSE '04** 

**Publisher: IEEE Computer Society** 

Full text available: pdf(212.14 KB) Additional Information: full citation, abstract, citings, index terms

Financial companies, engineering firms and even scientistscreate increasingly larger spreadsheets and spreadsheetprograms. The creators of large spreadsheets makeerrors and must track them down. One common class oferrors concerns unit errors, because spreadsheets often employformulas with physical or monetary units. In this paper, we describe XeLda, our tool for unit checking Excel spreadsheets. The tool highlights cells if theirformulas process values with incorrect units and if derivedunits clas ...

2 A user-centred approach to functions in excel

Simon Peyton Jones, Alan Blackwell, Margaret Burnett

August 2003 ACM SIGPLAN Notices, Proceedings of the eighth ACM SIGPLAN international conference on Functional programming ICFP '03, Volume 38 Issue 9

Publisher: ACM Press

Full text available: pdf(210.80 KB)

Additional Information: <u>full citation</u>, <u>abstract</u>, <u>references</u>, <u>citings</u>, <u>index</u> terms

We describe extensions to the Excel spreadsheet that integrate user-defined functions into the spreadsheet grid, rather than treating them as a "bolt-on". Our first objective was to bring the benefits of additional programming language features to a system that is often not recognised as a programming language. Second, in a project involving the evolution of a well-established language, compatibility with previous versions is a major issue, and maintaining this compatibility was our second objec ...

3 Industrial session: query processing and optimization: Query by Excel Andrew Witkowski, Srikanth Bellamkonda, Tolga Bozkaya, Aman Naimat, Lei Sheng, Sankar Subramanian, Allison Waingold

August 2005 Proceedings of the 31st international conference on Very large data bases VLDB '05

Publisher: VLDB Endowment

Full text available: pdf(243.43 KB) Additional Information: full citation, abstract, references, index terms

Spreadsheets, and MS Excel in particular, are established analysis tools. They offer an



attractive user interface, provide an easy to use computational model, and offer substantial interactivity for what-if analysis. However, as opposed to RDBMS, spreadsheets do not provide a central repository hence they do not provide shareability of models built in Excel and lead to proliferation of multiple copies of the same spreadsheet. Furthermore, spreadsheets do not offer scalable computation, for examp ...

4 Testing and analysis: Automatic generation and maintenance of correct spreadsheets



Martin Erwig, Robin Abraham, Irene Cooperstein, Steve Kollmansberger
May 2005 Proceedings of the 27th international conference on Software engineering

Publisher: ACM Press

Full text available: pdf(272.30 KB) Additional Information: full citation, abstract, references, index terms

Existing spreadsheet systems allow users to change cells arbitrarily, which is a major source of spreadsheet errors. We propose a system that prevents errors in spreadsheets by restricting spreadsheet updates to only those that are logically and technically correct. The system is based on the concept of templates that describe the principal structure of the initial spreadsheet and all of its future versions. We have developed a program generator that translates a template into an initial spreads ...

**Keywords**: end-user software engineering, error prevention, program generation, spreadsheet, template, type system

5 Spreadsheet structure inspection using low level access and visualisation Daniel Ballinger, Robert Biddle, James Noble



February 2003 Proceedings of the Fourth Australian user interface conference on User interfaces 2003 - Volume 18 CRPITS '03

Publisher: Australian Computer Society, Inc.

Full text available: pdf(92.69 KB)

Additional Information: full citation, abstract, references, citings, index terms

Spreadsheets are an extremely common form of end-user programming used for many applications from student marks to accounting for global multinationals. Ways of studying the structure of a spreadsheet itself is normally constrained to the tools provided in the spreadsheet software. We wanted to explore ways to use new visualisations for spreadsheets, and this paper documents our approach.

Keywords: end user programming, spreadsheets, visualisation

<sup>6</sup> A generalised spreadsheet verification methodology

Nick Randolph, John Morris, Gareth Lee

January 2002 Australian Computer Science Communications, Proceedings of the twenty-fifth Australasian conference on Computer science - Volume 4 CRPITS '02, Volume 24 Issue 1

Publisher: Australian Computer Society, Inc., IEEE Computer Society Press
Full text available: pdf(843.91 KB) Additional Information: full citation, abstract, references, index terms

Although spreadsheets have been around for over thirty years, we are only just realising their importance. Most companies use spreadsheets in their decision-making processes, but rarely employ any form of testing. This paper shows how an "all-uses" test adequacy technique can be integrated into Microsoft's Excel. The modular technique adopted makes the implementation spreadsheet package independent. It also includes a user interface, to assist developers specify test cases and a technique for re ...

**Keywords**: errors, software testing, spreadsheets, verification